

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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R 031315Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 421

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 9076

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR BILATERALS: CONVERSATION WITH RUMANIAN
AMBASSADOR

SUMMARY: ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR, IN PRIVATE TALK WITH US REP
EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RESTRICTION OF RIGHT OF NON-PARTICIPATING
STATES TO CONVENE PLENARIES WHEN NO SUCH RESTRICTION CONTAINED
IN PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT. HE HOPED THERE WAS NO TREND TOWARD
CLOSED ACTIVITIES. HE REITERATED ROMANIAN POSITION ON
WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS.

1. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR, ANTINOIU, ACCOMPANIED BY ROMANIAN
DEP REP OVIDIU POPESCU AND GEORGHE DUTA, THIRD SECRETARY, WHO
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ACTED AS INTERPRETER, PAID A CALL ON US REP NOVEMBER 2.

ANTINOIU EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT US OPENING STATEMENT CONTAINED PRINCIPLE THAT EVENTUAL AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE SECURITY OF OTHER REGIONS. HOWEVER, HE VOICED DISPLEASURE AT US "FAILURE" SPECIFICALLY TO STATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE BLOC-TO-BLOC, THOUGH THIS IDEA WAS STRESSED IN THE STATEMENTS OF OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS. (COMMENT: THIS IS INCORRECT.) ANTINOIU ALSO REGRETTED US STATEMENT THAT PROCEDURAL MATTERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CLOSED. ANTINOIU NOTED THAT PRELIMINARY TALKS LEFT OPEN THE QUESTION OF RIGHT OF OTHER INTERESTED EUROPEAN STATES TAKING PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHEREAS NOW NON-PARTICIPATING STATES COULD NOT CONVENE PLENARY. AT GENEVA ALL THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES ARE PERMITTED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ALTHOUGH NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK. HE ASKED ALSO WHAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THIS EXCLUSION OF SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS FROM CONVENING PLENARIES, SINCE THERE WAS NO SUCH RESTRICTION IN THE PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT.

2. ANTINOIU SAID HE THOUGHT HE DETECTED A DRIFT TOWARD "CLOSED ACTIVITIES" AND FEARED THAT THE RIGHT OF EACH DELEGATE TO SPEAK MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED. THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION WAS COUNTING ON THE MAINTENANCE OF THE OPEN RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD EXISTED BEFORE.

3. US REP COMMENTED THAT WHILE WESTERN STATES COORDINATED THEIR OWN POSITIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ALLIED COHESION, THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE THIS PATTERN ON OTHERS AND WOULD DEAL WITH EACH OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS INDIVIDUALLY, THEY WOULD WELCOME ROMANIAN IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS, REGARDING PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS, THE US FELT THAT THE FEWER THE PARTICIPANTS THE SOONER AND MORE LIKELY WOULD BE AGREEMENT. WITH REGARD TO PLENARIES, SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS COULD ALWAYS ASK PARTICIPATING STATES TO CONVENE A PLENARY IF THE PARTICIPATING STATE AGREED THERE WAS A NEED TO DO SO. CONCERNING THE MATTER OF "CLOSED ACTIVITIES", IN PRINCIPLE, THE US AGREED THAT WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL, BUT THIS POSITION SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALLER GROUPS WHERE NECESSARY.

4. ANTINOIU REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ROMANIA BOTH AS REGARDS EAST AND WEST TO ASK A PARTICIPATING STATE TO CONVENE A PLENARY ON ITS BEHALF. HE WONDERED WHERE LAY THE DANGER TO THE US OF ANY PARTICIPATING STATE CONVENING PLENARIES AND HOPED
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THAT US DELEGATION DID NOT HAVE ROMANIA IN MIND SINCE ROMANIA DID NOT INTEND ANY OBSTRUCTION. IT WOULD BE BETTER HENCEFORTH JUST NOT TO MENTION ANY SUCH RESTRICTION. HE THOUGHT THAT ALL 19 STATES WOULD IN PRACTICE NOT PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUPS, BUT ROMANIA DID NOT WANT TO HAVE TO ASK A DIRECT PARTICIPANT TO ASK FOR ITS ADMISSION IF SOMETHING AFFECTING ITS INTERESTS CAME UP.

5. ANTINOIU ALSO REITERATED SUPPORT FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL

FOREIGN FORCES, US REP RESPONDED THAT HE AGREED WITH POINT IN ROMANIAN OPENING STATEMENT PASSAGE URGING AGREEMENT IN STAGES, AND THAT SUCH A BIG PROGRAM SHOULD NOT BE TACKLED ALL AT ONCE. IN ANY EVENT, MILITARY BALANCE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISPARITY REQUIRED PRESENCE OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE. HE PRESUMED ROMANIANS WERE ALSO KEEPING IN MIND GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES.

6. ANTINOIU SAID HE DID WANT TO EXPAND ON DELICATE THEM OF IMPORTANT ROLE OF GEOGRAPHY IN POLITICAL POSITION OF ROMANIA AND ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD AS YET TAKEN NO FORMAL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE FOR THE YET MBFR NEGOTIATIONS DUE TO INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND LACK OF URGENCY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE TALKS CONCERNED ONLY CENTRAL EUROPE, BUT ROMANIAN POSITION WHEN DEFINED WOULD NOT BE FAR FROM THEIR POSITION ON DISARMAMENT IN GENERAL.

7. US REP URGED ANTINOIU TO MAINTAIN DIRECT CHANNEL WITH US DELEGATION. ANTINOIU ASKED TOPICS OF NOVEMBER 6 PLENARY, AND WAS PLEASED WHEN TOLD THEY MIGHT BE UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AND SECURITY OF SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS. HE WOULD REMAIN SILENT ON NOVEMBER 6 BUT MIGHT SAY SOMETHING ON NOVEMBER 8.HUMES

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